

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

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P R 102125Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2494

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EC PE

SUBJ: GOE ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF MORALES BERMUDEZ VISIT

REF: QUITO 8534

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS ANNOUNCED DEC. 9 THAT THE PROPOSED DEC. 13 MEETING BETWEEN THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR AND PERUVIAN PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAS BEEN CALLED OFF. THIS FOLLOWED NEWS REPORTS OF A PERUVIAN DECLARATION THAT IT WAS UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THE PERU-VECUADOR BORDER DISPUTE AT THE MEETING. A GOE FONMIN SPOKESMAN STATED THAT "THE TERRITORIAL PROBLEM COULD NOT HAVE REMAINED OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF A HIGH-LEVEL CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE."

2. IN ITS STATEMENT THE FONMIN COMMUNICATION SAID THAT "THE INTERVIEW BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR AND THE PRESIDENT OF PERU WILL NOT TAKE PLACE. . . . THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR DEVOTES SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PERU, AND IN THIS ENDEAVOR HAS BEEN SEARCHING--ALONG WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY--FOR WAYS TO STRENGTHEN AND AFFIRM THESE RELATIONS ON A PERMANENT BASIS. IN THIS CONTEXT IT WAS CONSIDERED USEFUL TO HAVE A HIGH-LEVEL INTERVIEW, WHICH HAS (NOW) BEEN POSTPONED TO ANOTHER TIME.

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3. SUPREME COUNCIL HEAD ADM. POVEDA EXPLAINED TO AMBASSADOR

DEC. 10 THAT PERUVIAN ANNOUNCEMENT THT TERRITORIAL ISSUE
WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED LEFT ECUADOR IN AN UNTENABLE
POSITION. EITHER GOE HAD TO CHALLENGE PUBLICLY PERUVIAN
STATEMENT OR REMAIN SILENT AND RECEIVE AN UNACCEPTABLE
LEVEL OF CRITICISM AT HOM. FOR THIS REASON, HE SAID,
ECUADOR FELT IT HAD TO CANCEL.

4. COMMENT: THIS ACTION IS JUST ONE MORE EXAMPLE THAT
THE PERU-ECUADOR BORDER DISPUTE REMAINS A POWERFUL DOMESTIC
PUBLIC ISSUE HERE AND THAT ANY ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT MUST ACT
IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IT DOES NOT PBULICLY APPEAR TO ACCEPT
THE REALITY OF THE LOSS OF ECUADOREAN TERRITORY TO PERU
FOLLOWING THE 1941 WAR (REFTEL).
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

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